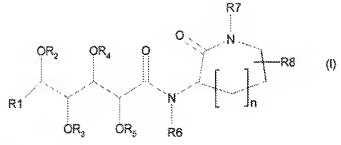
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X_1-(C_{1-8}) alkyl-, (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkenylene-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkynylene-, X_1-(C_{3-9})cycloalkyl-, X_2-(C_{3-6})cycloalkene-, X_1-aryl-, X_1-(C_{3-7})cycloalkane-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, X_2-(C_{3-7})cycloalkene-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, or X_1-aryl-(C_{1-6})alkylene-;

X_1 is H, (C_{1-14})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-14})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-6})alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo, (C_{1-12})alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl;

X_2 is H, (C_{1-14})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-14})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-6})alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl- or mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl;

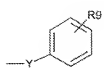
R_a is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, aryl, or (C_{1-18})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl or halo;

R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently hydrogen or (C_{1-18})alkyl, R_5 is also phenyl or (C_{1-16})alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 alkyl substituents, or R_2 and R_4 together or R_3 and R_5 together form an acetal group;

R6 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl;

R7 is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C_{1-18})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N_3, halo, -$N(R_x)_2$, R_x, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R_b or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa

IIa



IIIa

wherein

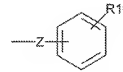
R9 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo, -N_3, (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl, (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-C_{5-7}cycloalkyl, (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-heterocyclic, (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-C_{6-7}aryl, or (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group seleded from -(C_{1-10})alkyl-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-N(R_x)-CO-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-CO-O-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{1-10})alkylene-O-C(O)-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-CO-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-O-CO-(R_x)N-(C_{0-10})alkylene- or -(C_{0-18})alkylene-arylene-(C_{0-18})alkylene-;

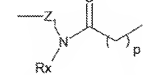
R_x is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl or phenyl;

R_a is (C_{1-16})alkyl or (C_{1-16})alkyl which is substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, –OR_x, N_3, halo, -N(R_x)$_2$, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl;

R8 is H, halo, -N_3, (C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl, (C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -N_3, -N(R_x)$_2$, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -N_3, -N(R_x)$_2$, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -O(C_{1-16})alkylene-N_3, -O(C_{1-16})alkylene-N(R_x)$_2$, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{1-16})alkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-OC(O)-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C_{1-12})alkyl, -O-CO-X-R_z, or –O-CO-(CH_2)$_m$-O-(CH_2)$_m$-X-R_z wherein X is a direct bond, (C_{1-12})alkylene, (C_{1-12})alkenylene or (C_{1-12})alkynylene and R_z is H, (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C_{1-18})alkyl or (C_{1-18})alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR_a, -SR_a, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-Si((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_3$ or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



and



Z is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-, -O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-

CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-;

Z_1 is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-;

R10 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C_{1-17})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-17})alkyl, -(CH_2)$_{1-6}$-C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl, -(CH_2)$_{0-10}$-aryl or -(CH_2)$_{0-10}$-het;

het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

with the proviso that when n is 2 and R_1 is (C_{1-6})alkyl-CH=CH- or (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R_7 is not H or (C_{1-8})alkyl or R_8 is not –O-CO-X-R_Z or –O-CO-(CH_2)$_m$-O-(CH_2)$_m$-X-R_Z where X is a direct bond, (C_{1-12})alkylene, (C_{1-12})alkenylene or (C_{1-12})alkynylene and R_z is H, (C_{3-8})cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C_{1-18})alkyl or (C_{1-18})alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R_8 is not –OH when n is 2, R_7 is H or methyl and R_1 is 3-methylbut-1-enylene.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

n is 2;

R1 is X_1-(C_{1-6}) alkyl-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkenylene-, X_1-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-, or X_1-(C_{3-7})cycloalkane-(C_{1-3})alkylene-;

X_1 is H, (C_{1-12})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -(C_{1-12})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl- or -OR_a;

X_2 is H, (C_{1-12})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -(C_{1-12})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-;

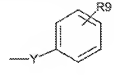
R_a is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, aryl-, or (C_{1-18})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or aryl;

R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently hydrogen or (C_{1-4})alkyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 8 carbon atoms, especially no more than 4 carbon atoms, in the combined R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 alkyl substituents;

R6 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl;

R7 is H, (C_{1-8})alkyl, R_x, (C_{1-10})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, $-OR_x$, N_3, halo, $-N(R_x)_2$, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl; or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa

IIa



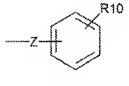
IIIa

R9 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl, $-OR_a$, $-SR_a$, $-NO_2$, halo, or $-N_3$;

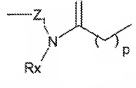
Y is a linking group selected from -C(O)N(R_x)-, -CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-O-, -CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-10})alkylene-CO-O-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, -(C_{1-10})alkylene-O-C(O)-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, -CO-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-10})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-, -(C_{1-10})alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, or -(C_{0-12})alkylene-arylene-(C_{0-12})alkylene-;

R_x is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl or phenyl;

R8 is $-N_3$, (C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl, (C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, $-N_3$, or $-N(R_x)_2$; -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl substituted in the alkyl portion by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, $-N_3$, or $-N(R_x)_2$, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{1-16})alkyl, or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



or



Z is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene- or -O-CO-N(R_x)-;

Z_1 is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -C(O)-;

R10 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C_{1-17})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-17})alkyl, -$(CH_2)_{1-6}$-C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_{0-10}$-aryl or -$(CH_2)_{0-10}$–het; and

het is pyridyl.

3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R1 is (C_{1-6} alkyl)-ethenylene-;

R_2, R_3 and R_4, independently are hydrogen or (C_{1-4}) alkyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 4 carbon atoms in the combined R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 alkyl substituents;

R_5 is (C_{1-4})alkyl;

R6 is hydrogen or methyl;

R7 is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

R8 is H, -N_3, (C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl, (C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -N_3, or -$N(R_x)_2$; or -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl substituted in the alkyl portion by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -N_3, or -$N(R_x)_2$;

R9 is $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-C_{5-7} cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-C_{5-7} hetero-cyclic, $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-C_{5-7} aryl, or $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-C_{5-7} hetero-aryl;

X is (C_{1-12}) alkylene or (C_{2-12}) alkenylene;

R10 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C_{1-8})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-8})alkyl, -$(CH_2)_{1-6}$-C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_{0-10}$-aryl or -$(CH_2)_{0-10}$ -het;

het is pyridyl;

n is 2.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R1 is –CH=CH-*i*-propyl or –CH=CH-*t*-butyl;

X_2 is H;

R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 independently are hydrogen or methyl;

R6 is hydrogen;

R7 is H or (C_{1-3}) alkyl; and

n is 2.

5. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R_1 is X_1-(C_{3-7})cycloalkane-(C_{1-6})alkylene- or X_2-(C_{3-9})cycloalkene-;

X_1 is hydrogen;

X_2 is hydrogen;

R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 independently are hydrogen or methyl;

R_6 is hydrogen;

R_7 is H or (C_{1-3}) alkyl;

R_8 is hydrogen; and

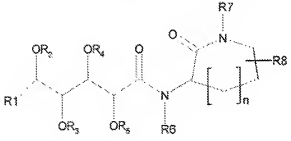
n is 2.

6. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A process to prepare the compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X_1-(C_{1-8}) alkyl-, (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkenylene-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkynylene-, X_1-(C_{3-8})cycloalkyl-, X_2-(C_{3-8})cycloalkene-, X_1-aryl-, X_1-(C_{3-7})cycloalkane-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, X_2-(C_{3-7})cycloalkene-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, or X_1-aryl-(C_{1-6})alkylene-;

X_1 is H, (C_{1-14})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-14})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-6})alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo, (C_{1-12})alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl;

X_2 is H, (C_{1-14})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-14})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-6})alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl- or mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl;

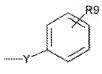
R_a is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, aryl, or (C_{1-18})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl or halo;

R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently hydrogen or (C_{1-18})alkyl, R_5 is also phenyl or (C_{1-16})alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 alkyl substituents, or R_2 and R_4 together or R_3 and R_5 together form an acetal group;

R6 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl;

R7 is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C_{1-18})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N_3, halo, -$N(R_x)_2$, R_x, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R_b or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa

IIa



IIIa

wherein

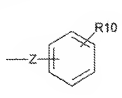
R9 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl, $-OR_a$, $-SR_a$, $-NO_2$, halo, $-N_3$, (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl, $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-C_{5-7}-cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-heterocyclic, $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-C_{5-7}aryl, or $(CH_2)_{0-2}$-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group seleded from $-(C_{1-10})$alkyl-, $-(C_{0-10})$alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, $-(C_{0-10})$alkylene-N(R_x)-CO-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, $-(C_{0-10})$alkylene-CO-O-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, $-(C_{1-10})$alkylene-O-C(O)-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, $-(C_{0-10})$alkylene-CO-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, $-(C_{0-10})$alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, $-(C_{0-10})$alkylene-O-CO-(R_x)N-(C_{0-10})alkylene- or $-(C_{0-18})$alkylene-arylene-(C_{0-18})alkylene-;

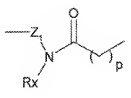
R_x is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl or phenyl;

R_b is (C_{1-16})alkyl or (C_{1-16})alkyl which is substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, $-OR_x$, N_3, halo, $-N(R_x)_2$, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl;

R8 is H, halo, $-N_3$, (C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl, (C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, $-N_3$, $-N(R_x)_2$, -Z-het, $-OR_a$ or $-SR_a$, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, $-N_3$, $-N(R_x)_2$, -Z-het, $-OR_a$ or $-SR_a$, -O(C_{1-16})alkylene-N_3, -O(C_{1-16})alkylene-N$(R_x)_2$, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{1-16})alkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-OC(O)-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C_{1-12})alkyl, -O-CO-X-R_z, or –O-CO-$(CH_2)_m$-O-$(CH_2)_m$-X-R_z wherein X is a direct bond, (C_{1-12})alkylene, (C_{1-12})alkenylene or (C_{1-12})alkynylene and R_z is H, (C_{3-9})cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C_{1-16})alkyl or (C_{1-16})alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, $-OR_a$, $-SR_a$, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-Si$((C_{1-6})$alkyl$)_3$ or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



and



Z is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-, -O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-, -N(R_y)-, -N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_y)-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-81})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-;

Z_1 is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-;

R10 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C_{1-17})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-17})alkyl, -(CH_2)$_{1-8}$-C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl, -(CH_2)$_{5-10}$-aryl or -(CH_2)$_{0-10}$ –het;

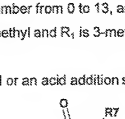
het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

with the proviso that when n is 2 and R_1 is (C_{1-8})alkyl-CH=CH- or (C_{3-8})cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R_7 is not H or (C_{1-8})alkyl or R_8 is not –O-CO-X-R_2 or –O-CO-(CH_2)$_m$-O-(CH_2)$_m$-X-R_2 where X is a direct bond, (C_{1-12})alkylene, (C_{1-12})alkenylene or (C_{1-12})alkynylene and R_2 is H, (C_{3-9})cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C_{1-18})alkyl or (C_{1-18})alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R_8 is not –OH when n is 2, R_7 is H or methyl and R_1 is 3-methylbut-1-enylene;

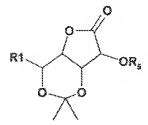
comprising the following steps:

(a) reacting the compound of formula VI or an acid addition salt thereof



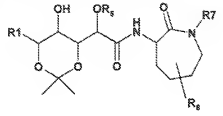
VI

wherein R_7 and R_8 are defined above, with the compound of formula VII



VII

wherein R_1 and R_5 are defined above, to form a compound of formula VIII

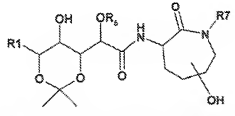


VIII ; and

(b) hydrolyzing the compound of formula VIII.

11. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein step (a) is conducted in a polar organic solvent or in the presence of a weak base and a polar organic solvent.

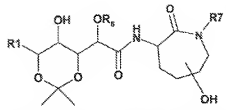
12. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compound of VIII is prepared by reacting the compound of XI



wherein R_1, R_5 and R_7 are defined in claim 10, with an acid chloride in the presence of a base and a solvent.

13. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the acid chloride is of the formula $R_{12}COCl$, wherein R_{12} is an appropriate substituent based on the definition of R_5; the base is triethylanime and the solvent is dichloromethane.

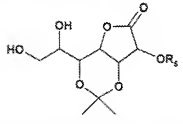
14. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compound of VIII is prepared by reacting the compound of XI



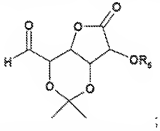
wherein R_1, R_5 and R_7 are defined in claim 11, with a carboxylic acid in the presence of a carboxylic acid coupling agent and an activating agent.

15. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the carboxylic acid is of the formula $R_{12}COOH$ wherein R_{12} is an appropriate substituent based on the definition of R_5; the carboxylic acid coupling reagent is 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride and the activating agent is 4-dimethyaminopyridine.

16. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the compound of formula VII is prepared by cleaving the compound of formula XXXIII



wherein R_5 is defined in claim 10, to obtain the compound XXXIV



; and

reacting the compound of XXXIV with an organometallic compound in the presence of a solvent mixture.

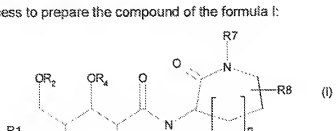
17. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein cleaving the compound of formula XXXIII is carried out in the presence of a periodate salt in a solvent.

18. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the periodate salt is sodium periodate and the solvent is methanol.

19. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the organometallic compound is an organochromium compound, and the solvent mixture comprises of a polar organic solvent and an inert organic solvent.

20. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polar organic solvent is N,N-dimethylformamide and the inert organic solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

21. (Original) A process to prepare the compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X_1-(C_{1-6}) alkyl-, (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkenylene-, X_2-(C_{2-4}) alkynylene-, X_1-(C_{3-6})cycloalkyl-, X_2-(C_{3-9})cycloalkene-, X_1-aryl-, X_1-(C_{3-7})cycloalkane-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, X_2-(C_{3-7})cycloalkene-(C_{1-6})alkylene-, or X_1-aryl-(C_{1-6})alkylene-;

X_1 is H, (C_{1-14})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-14})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-6})alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo, (C_{1-12})alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl;

X_2 is H, (C_{1-14})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-14})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -OR_a -SR_a, -NO_2, halo or (C_{1-6})alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C_{1-12})alkyl-, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl- or mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl;

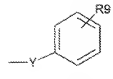
R_a is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, aryl, or (C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl or halo;

R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently hydrogen or (C_{1-18})alkyl, R_5 is also phenyl or (C_{1-16})alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 alkyl substituents, or R_2 and R_4 together or R_3 and R_5 together form an acetal group;

R6 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl;

R7 is H, (C_{1-18})alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C_{1-18})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, --OR_x, N_3, halo, -$N(R_x)_2$, R_x, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R_b or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa

IIa



IIIa

wherein

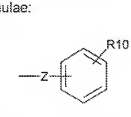
R9 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO_2, halo, -N_3, (C_{1-12})alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-16})alkyl, (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-C_{5-7}cycloalkyl, (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-heterocyclic, (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-C_{5-7}aryl, or (CH_2)$_{0-2}$-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group selected from -(C_{1-10})alkyl-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-N(R_x)-CO-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-CO-O-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{1-10})alkylene-O-C(O)-(C_{1-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-CO-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C_{0-10})alkylene-, -(C_{0-10})alkylene-O-CO-(R_x)N-(C_{0-10})alkylene- or -(C_{0-18})alkylene-arylene-(C_{0-18})alkylene-;

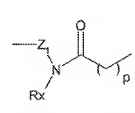
R_x is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl or phenyl;

R_b is (C_{1-16})alkyl or (C_{1-16})alkyl which is substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, --OR_x, N_3, halo, -N(R_x)$_2$, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl or pyridyl;

R8 is H, halo, -N_3, (C_{1-16})alkyl, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl, (C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -N_3, -N(R_x)$_2$, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -Z-(C_{1-16})alkyl substituted by (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -N_3, -N(R_x)$_2$, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -O(C_{1-16})alkylene-N_3, -O(C_{1-16})alkylene-N(R_x)$_2$, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-OC(O)-(C_{1-16})alkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{1-16})alkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-OC(O)-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, -(C_{0-6})alkylene-(O)C-O-(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C_{1-12})alkyl, -O-CO-X-R_z, or --O-CO-(CH_2)$_m$-O-(CH_2)$_m$-X-R_z wherein X is a direct bond, (C_{1-12})alkylene, (C_{1-12})alkenylene or (C_{1-12})alkynylene and R_z is H, (C_{3-8})cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C_{1-18})alkyl or (C_{1-18})alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR_a, -SR_a, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino, amino(C_{1-16})alkyl-, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})alkylamino(C_{1-18})alkyl, -Z-Si((C_{1-8})alkyl)$_3$ or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



and



Z is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-, -O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-

CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-CO-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-;

Z_1 is a direct bond, -(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-CO-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -CO-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})alkylene-, -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})alkylene- or -(C_{1-8})alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})alkylene-;

R10 is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C_{1-17})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-17})alkyl, -(CH_2)$_{1-6}$-C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, -(CH_2)$_{0-10}$-aryl or -(CH_2)$_{0-10}$ –het;

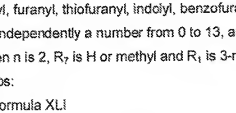
het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

with the proviso that when n is 2 and R_1 is (C_{1-6})alkyl-CH=CH- or (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R_7 is not H or (C_{1-8})alkyl or R_8 is not –O-CO-X-R_Z or –O-CO-(CH_2)$_m$-O-(CH_2)$_m$-X-R_Z where X is a direct bond, (C_{1-12})alkylene, (C_{1-12})alkenylene or (C_{1-12})alkynylene and R_z is H, (C_{3-9})cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C_{1-18})alkyl or (C_{1-18})alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R_8 is not –OH when n is 2, R_7 is H or methyl and R_1 is 3-methylbut-1-enylene;

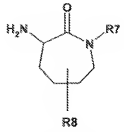
comprising the following steps:

(a) reacting a compound of formula XLI

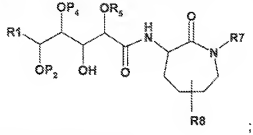


;

wherein R_1 and R_5 are defined above, P_2 and P_4 are protective groups, and R"" is a (C_{1-6})alkyl, with the compound of formula VI



wherein R_7 and R_8 are defined above, to form the compound of formula XLII

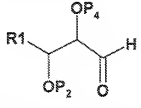


; and

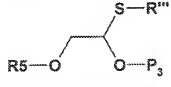
(b) deprotecting the compound of formula XLII.

22. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein R''' is ethyl, P_2 is *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl, and P_4 is selected from benzyl or naphthlmethyl ethers.

23. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the compound of formula XLI is prepared by reacting the compound of formula XL



wherein R_1, P_2 and P_4 are defined in claim 21 with a compound having the following formula



wherein R_5 and R''' are defined in claim 21 and P_3 is a protective group.

24. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Lewis acid and a solvent.

25. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the Lewis acid is $SnCl_4$ and the solvent is a mixture of CH_2Cl_2 and heptane.